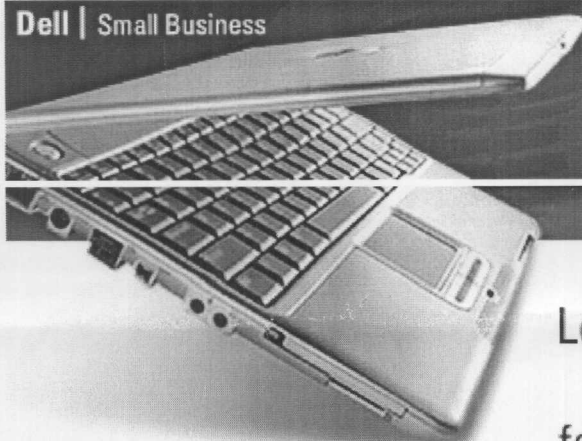




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## More PivotTable Power

October 1, 2003

By Neil J. Rubenking

Your July 2003 article "Filtering with Excel's PivotTable" ([www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1134454,00.asp](http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1134454,00.asp)) states that a pivot table can't tell you who places the high bid, but this is not correct. Try building a pivot table with all three columns of data. Arrange the data the same way, and then drag the Customer label just to the right of the Part label as a second-row field. Double-click on the Customer label in the pivot table and click on the Advanced button. Under AutoSort options, select Descending and use the field Max of Bid. Under Top 10 AutoShow, select On, use the field Max of Bid and select it to show only one.

You will see the top bid (or bids, if there is a tie), and the customer who made the bid. If you choose to Autoshow more than one, the bids appear in descending order with the associated customer names. Now, get rid of the irrelevant Total lines by double-clicking on the Part label in the pivot table and setting subtotals to none.

Harry L. Goulding

The PivotTable feature is so powerful and multifaceted that you can easily overlook some of its abilities. Indeed, contrary to the earlier article, it can supply both the highest bid and the name of the highest bidder. In fact, in an improvement over the previous solution, it will display the name of multiple bidders who tie for highest bid (see [Figure 2](#)). Here are all the steps to create the example pivot table.

1. Create a new workbook with columns for Part, Bid, and Customer.
2. Fill in a dozen or so rows with example values.
3. Highlight the first three columns.
4. Select PivotTable and PivotChart Report from the Data menu.
5. Click on Finish (thereby accepting all the default settings).

6. Drag the Part field into the area marked Drop Row Fields Here.
7. Drag the Bid field into the area marked Drop Data Items Here.
8. Double-click on the box titled Count of Bid, select Max rather than Count, and click on OK.
9. Drag the Customer field so it's just to the right of the Part label in the PivotTable.
10. Double-click on the Customer label and click on the Advanced button in the resulting dialog box.
11. Choose Descending under AutoSort options and select Max of Bid from the list below.
12. Click on the radio button labeled On under Top 10 AutoShow and select Max of Bid from the list below.
13. Set the Show: option to show the top 1 rather than the default of 10, then click on OK and on OK again.
14. Double-click on the Part label, choose None under Subtotals, and click on OK.

It's worthwhile to work through the whole process, so you can see all of the options offered by the amazing PivotTable feature.

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